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PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

1840—1841.

No. 46.

December 10, 1840.

SIR JOHN W. LUBBOCK, Bart., V.P. and Treas., in the Chair.

A Memorandum, addressed to the Royal Society, November 28th, 1840, by Martin Barry, M.D., F.R.S., L. & Ed., was read.

Dr. Barry, in reference to the memorandum of Mr. Wharton Jones, claiming for himself the contemporaneous discovery of the germinal spot in the mammiferous ovum, states that, after having bestowed considerable pains to ascertain who was the original observer of a structure which has proved to be of great importance, he had mentioned incidentally in his paper the result of his inquiry, namely, that the merit of the discovery was due to Professor Rudolph Wagner; but observes that the inquiry may be resumed by all who will take the trouble to examine the works, both in German and English, on this subject; and that he will ever be open to conviction, and ready to declare his change of opinion, on the production of sufficient evidence.

A communication was also read, entitled "Supplementary Note to a Paper, entitled 'Researches in Embryology. Third Series: a Contribution to the Physiology of Cells.'" By Martin Barry, M.D., F.R.S., L. & Ed.

In the paper referred to, the author had shown, that after the ovum of the Rabbit has entered the Fallopian tube, cells are found collected around its thick transparent membrane or "zona pellucida"; which cells, by coalescing, form a thinner membrane—the incipient chorion. He now adds, that the formation of this thinner membrane does not exhaust the whole layer of these cells; but that a stratum of them is found remaining on, and entirely surrounding the "zona", after the thinner membrane has risen from it. The fluid space also, between the "zona" and the thinner membrane, presents a large number of cells or discoid objects, each of which contains a brilliantly pellucid and highly refracting globule. In some parts, several of these discs, closely joined together, have the appearance of shreds of membrane; in others, there are found pellucid globules, some of which are exceedingly minute. The discs now mentioned collect at the periphery, for the thickening of the chorion. They seem to